## FIRE'S ORIGIN IS A MYSTERY.

Mrs. Frances Nolte Tells a Story of Incendiarism -Watchman James Cummings Is Held for Investigation.

others, and rest first Frances-Nobe, hymn thin positing a thorough investigation of

ferror noon I harnes the store had burned and I came downtown to ascertain the facts. That is the reason I was not at home when Detective McGrath called. I am positive that it was but a few minutes after 7 6'clock when I left the store, and I was home before it was discovered to be on fire. This I can prove by my family and my manifesting Policy I. leased, and brought some bedelothing and other little comforts. Mr. Cummines expressed himself as feeling very body ever his arrest. He stated over and over again.

that he would experience no difficulty today in establishing his innocure.

John Noite, instead of the woman who claims to have winessed the incendary firing of the Penny & Gentiles building, formerly kept a saloon at Testit and Carr streets and also at Secenth and Wash. 4: seems the couple moved late their present quarters, which constitute the second and third floors of No. 225 Frankills avenue, only eccently, Captain Kiely states that he eatned they did not have insurance on their household furniture transferred when they browed. Their farulture was lastly

The police edmitted last night that Mea-Nelves condict in refusing to call at the station to see if Watchman Curamings looked like the man she claimed to have yet set fire to the state was very strange. Explently they believed ber bushand had detsed her to make no statement has

to get a direct statement of any value out of either of them. Leterica McGrata also had a talk with Mr. Nelle, and he gain t the impression that the latter worked to talk with the invirance people before hand his wife furnished pury additional in-

Mrs. Nolte's Statement.

Mrs. Noite told her story to a Republic derstanding that any hesitation or concentment on her part was against the public interest. If left to her own decires, it i probable she would keep her own examed he to what she says she saw, but after hav-ler, in the excitement of the memont, made ertain statements, the was compelled to repeat them in the presence of witreaver, ther allegations have so far not been supported by any other helicibility. If don't want to say anything if I can help it. Mrs. Note began, "I'm afraid that I have a reality of the present of th that I have already said too much in me excitement. I do not want to get anyhody into trouble. I would talket not say what I saw, although I saw it with my own

When present for an explanation of her enuments worse Mrs. Noise continued:
"Well, I will tell yest just exactly what I saw. I was sitting at the middle window of my sitting-room here on the third floor reading the Similay paper. I had finished the paper and was looking out absent mindeally across the arrest. Many a time I have sat here and looked across into the Penny & Goutle store, as that is really the only outlook there is from my windows I have often sat and watched the clerks a work in the siere, as I can see above the show windows clear into the store as far luck as the wall reparating the store from

After I had been looking over there a while my attention was altracted by a man who was moving about on the lower floor of the establishment, I could recog rite the man sgain, I believe, if I saw him. He was a man of possibly middle ane, apparently well dressed, and had a light mustache. That is as for as I am abi-te describe him.

What attracted your attention to him? the was asked.
"Well, I don't want to say, I don't won to get anybody into frouble. If I was no fell what I saw, maybe those people would not get any insurance money. And maybe that mun might be sent to the penticetiary "But you surely would not wish to shield

any one who deliberately caused the loss of two lives, in addition to the destruction of so much property?" she was asked.

Sounded Like a Cyclone.

"Well, no," she replied. "Besides, he nearly caused the death of myself and my "Well, no," she replied. "Besides, he nearly caused the death of myself and my husband and children, and was the cause into Franklin avenue from the Penhash and children, and was the cause of all my household furnitare. The going to tell all I know about it, and the main entrance tell the truth. When I first had my strength for particularly attracted to this man he was not first four of Ponny & Gentles's, a man who lived next door that an ellicity and sacking as though he was spreading around. I don't know what

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Heard Talk of Incendiarism.

SWINGLEY PRAISES HIS MEN.

He Also Expresses Careful Opin

This enterprising firm, whose store and contents were completely destroyed in yesterday's disastrous fire,

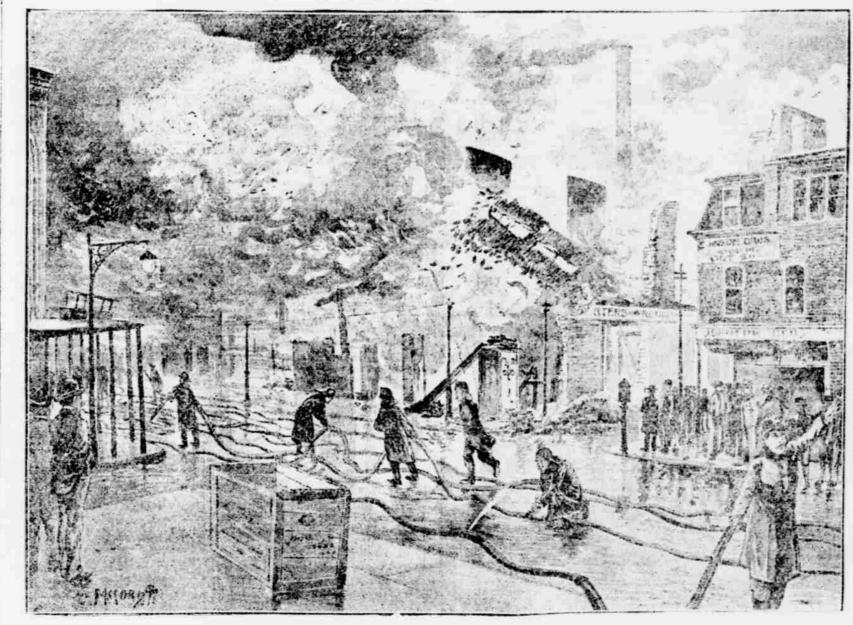
HAVE LEASED THE BIG STORES AT

And will be open this morning in their new quarters to transact office business and receive payments due on credit accounts, and will be ready for the sale of

Furniture, Carpets, Stoves

By Thursday morning, as their big warehouses at Second, Morgan and Collins streets are filled with new goods, which will be moved over as fast as possible.

REMEMBER OUR NEW LOCATION,



THE FIRE VIEWED FROM NORTHEAST CORNER OF BROADWAY AND FRANKLIN AVENUE. Scene as One of the Penny & Gentles Walls Fell.

neighborhood of Pouny & Gentles at the time the fire broke out. Clerk J. H. Boug-las, Assistant William Rumemers and Purfer Miller were on duty in the time. eracking of gines and became aware that of the police a creating out of the cridinary was trained. It is not eften that the head of a depicting but the neighborhood. I was slone partment have no perturnity to perfect his but after going home and character with the parter at the time and it was not cover men, but I want to say that I have but for a cut, be returned and required the store perfect the bravest men to the st. Lonis Fire De-mained until a late boar list maint.

time to boit the front door and insten came to their aid, and while they must through a side entrance into the street. have been suffering excraciating feshily The best was unfoccuting at the time, and pair, waited for success without a marming. I was satisfied that a fire of great magni-

I am entisfied that there will be fater development; for I count see how II was possible for the flames to spread as rapidly information I have received is in the hands

propositionary progress had been started. Mr. phidosel down by the heavy timbers the Binneman was upstairs.

"It happened so quickly that I had barely even shreeted the movements of those who

ther Swingley did not mention latting

DETAILS OF THE DAMAGE. Firms and Buildings Visited by the

Flames. On the cast side of Brudway the building on the northeast corner of Broadway

on that St Louis seproud of its Fire De- | 1500 on tollding and contents. The

at at fixther was almost a total tass, fart was well entered by the principle.
The principle No. So North Brinders, oscillated by Rule Marke's indivisors stere on the light floor, and E. A. but, the destire, upstairs, sectored considerable damage for a smooth and water, but the low on the

timesy from smales and water, but a

of No. 50 Frankfin avenue, sustained a The Briggs Off and Packing Company, at less of about 42,50 on his stock, which was raily trained. The building was also builty damaged, but \$2,000 will probably cover the printer at No. 80, and the Worthage Printing Company at the same number, all ref-

Charles P. Igage, dealer in glass and quersware at No. 33 Frankin avenue, lost about the on account of the damage by water and breakage, but was fully insured. | fully insured. The butiding was only sitchtly damaged. The building was only shenry declar at the company's place, but did not get into the life in the first place of this building. On the many state of this building, the shenry state of this building to the state of the shenry of

Erret Schrick, Lather dealer, was slight-

The five skipped the German-American of No. 8.7 North Fourth street, lost about 150 on account of damage by water, but were well insured, J. H. Rhode, at the same muniter, also experience a slight loss.

M. Kegel, a barbet, at No. 825 North
Fourth street, was burned out and lost
about \$1.00 The building was damaged to
the extent of about \$1.00, fully occurred by

The Banks Commission Company and the came number lost about \$29 cach, but were

The upper floors of those buildings were scuplet by several bulian families, who haved must of their household effects. No. 321 North Fourth street was occupied by Casier No. 2 of the St. Louis Dressed Foot and Provision Company, and M. Procekman, manufacturer of electrical sup-plies. Both plants are a total loss. The building was owned by the Connecticut Mutuni Life Insurance Company, and was in-sured for \$2,000

The Herboth Mercantile Company's stock of gass and queen ware was almost totally destroyed, and the loss and insurance are estimated at between \$50,000 and \$50,000. The building was also damaged about \$55,000.

but was insured A. Nause, wholesale grocer, at No. 819 North Fourth street, suffered an almost total loss on his stock, estimated at \$60.990 and insured for \$2,000 Loss on the bulldi-ing \$2,000, also insured.

The Schieler-Cornell Seed Company's

boilding was deviatated, and the loss on the stock is estimated at about \$5,000, cov-ered by insurance. The building was dam-

The Kreining Glass Company's selling Johnson Brothers' drug store and the Be-Lier (Thembeal company, on the northwest corner of Brondway and Franklie avenue, suffered considerable bess to both fire and water, one of the from sold that he did ret think the stamage to the stock and hulbling would exceed Erice, which is fully conversed to mearance. The believe Com-panies has could not be acceptained.

Next does at No. for Franklin avenue, finch F. Frey's book and please store was being damaged by fire and water. Mr. Broy sestimated at \$2,000, covered by insurance

Next door, at No. for Frankin avenue, little F. liter's book and phrinte store was be By alarmaged by fire and water. Mr Brey sail the dam ge would prohably reach about \$1.90. and was insured for 800. The damage to the building will amount to about \$1.90. Will, the A decira, commission merchants, at No. 22 North Third street, say their less will approximate \$1.90. and their figurative for the book of the book o

of demand from water Herman Manch, music dealer at No. 107 | Michael Rauer & Co, and L. Hake & Son,

Frankin average, estimates his loss of the first of the f ing at No. 8t2 North Fourth street, was scorched, but the damage was principally by water, and will not amount to over for.

The fire burned up to the Nelson Distinting

Company's place, but did not get into the following descented of this building. On Arrows the alley from the old Crawford buildings in that vicinity to aroms, middling the Fritz Smith Manufacturing buildings in that vicinity to aroms.

Near by, at the George T. Matthews of Company, at No. the Franklin avenue, sus-tained a loss of apoint \$1,000, covered by he by explosive and inflammable materials, the Pisc I spartment, by keeping a number of streams pt work on the building, pre-vented the off from taking fire. There were over fifty harrels of oil on the sidewalk is 's Five and Ten Cent Stere at th Freadway, was damaged by water, but the loss is not ex-

preted to exceed \$1.000. WORK OF SALVAGE.

Evans's Men Laid 250 Tarpanlins

in Burning Buildings. Two hundred and tifty covers were hid

a the various harming buildings by the mea Captain Charles Evans, who suffered the defination of having his gorgeous helme! oft in tween by a falling timber. Jim Carry of Company No. 1 received slight inurles by a piece of falling glass, The three companies and twenty-eight

ion of the corps never worked harder in heir lives than pesterday. They began at he Famous and white the flames from the belr turneulin. Said Captain Evans: "When we arrived at the fire we conultiling was protected by a forty-four-inch wall, yet did not escape, for the fismes caped neroes the street and reached the alloing through the front windows or came n through the skylight. Assisted by firemen who paved the way for our ics by their stendy streame of water we were able to save thomsunds of dollars worth of goods.

aged to the extent of \$15.00, and is also the loss would have been much greater had insured.

S. freeter Bros.' hardware store was considerably duraged by water. i not been able to get my men into position with covers. There were no serious injuries in my department, although may number of the men were injured slightly and ball off for a terminate of the form off for a temporary period to recover from effect of the heat and smoke only to return